GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:952
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Use of Bio Fertilizers
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote the production and sale of organic fertilizers in the country;

(b) the targets set by the Government for this purpose under various schemes during the 12th Five Year Plan period;

(c) the percentage of organic fertilizers provided to farmers as compared to the total fertilizer used in the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the production of organic fertilizers in the country and if so, the details of major crops produced by using bio fertilizer in comparison to chemical fertilizers in the country during the last one year; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage/popularize production of organic fertilizers on small scales using organic waste generated on farms and in homes for use or sale?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ?????? ???????? ??? ????? ?????? (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (e): Government is encouraging the use of organic/bio fertilizer through various schemes/programmes viz: National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP) and Network Project on Organic Farming of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) .The pattern of assistance provided to State governments through various schemes for promoting use of organic/bio fertilizer is given at Annexure.

The total consumption of organic fertilizer is 2548.80 lakh tons and that of chemical fertilizer is 557.88 lakh tons. If both are pooled the amount comes 3106.68 lakh tons, indicating that around 80.04% of the bulk is organic fertilizer. However, nutrient wise organic fertilizers are
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low nutrient containing material compared with fertilizers so that percentage contribution of organic fertilizer in terms of actual usage is substantially lower than fertilizers.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed improved and efficient strains of biofertilizers namely Rhizobium, Azotobacter , Azospirillum, Acetobacter, Phosphate Solubilizing Microorganism, Potash Solubilizing Bacteria , Zinc Solubilizing Bacteria specific to different crops (in leguminous and non-leguminous crops) and soil types under ICAR - Network Project on Soil Biodiversity-Biofertilizers. Liquid Biofertilizer technology with higher shelf-life has also been developed. Besides, the Council has developed technology to prepare bio-enriched compost using various organic wastes fortified with biofertilizers. Biofertilizers can improve crop yields by 10-25% and supplement costly chemical fertilizers (N,P) by nearly 20-25% in most of the cases when used along with chemical fertilizers. When biofertilizers are applied along with compost @ 5t/ha or vermin-compost @ 2t/ha, fertilizer saving is almost 50%.

Ministry of New & Renewable Energy is implementing a scheme namely, National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMP) using cow dung, kitchen waste material etc., as mix feed to produce Biogas for cooking gas and organic enriched bio manure through the implementing Agencies such as State Nodal Departments/State Nodal Agencies and Khadi & Village Industries Commission and Biogas Development and Training Centers (BDTCs).

The National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad, a unit under the department undertakes various extension and publicity activities like exhibitions, radio talks, TV programmes, distribution of literature on organic inputs/ organic farming etc. to educate the farmers. NCOF is also publishing biannual Newsletter "Biofertilizers" as well as quarterly Newsletter called Organic Farming. In addition, various books on production and use of bio-fertilizers have been published in various languages for distribution to the farming community. Radio jingles on organic agriculture are broadcasted on 4 different FM Radio Stations including Delhi, Bangalore, Nagpur and Lucknow. NCOF organizes 30 days certificate course on organic farming for skill development in organic agriculture sector for youth. It also conducts 10 days Refresher course for analysts under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO); 5 Days Trainers Training & 2 Days training for field functionaries and extension staff of the State Government. NCOF has also been organizing Farmers' Training and Field Demonstration (FTFD) programmes on organic farming since 2015-16 in various villages under "Sansad Aadarsh

Gram Yojana" (SAGY), through its Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs). It has completed 300 no. of FTFD in 2015-16 and has targeted 296 no. in the year 2016-17.